

## Rymer, Edwina

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**From:** Dellinger, Philip  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2015 4:16 PM  
**To:** Honker, William  
**Cc:** Garcia, David; Brown, Jamesr  
**Subject:** RE: NPR story on Phil's presentation to GWPC emphasizes conflict with RRC

Hi Bill. Lori Wrotenberry called me and wants to set up a call with Craig Pearson (seismologist), Dave Hill (my counterpart), Herself, and me to see what kind of data we are looking for. I told her I would attend the call whenever they can all get together. Is this something you would like to attend or have someone else?

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**From:** Dellinger, Philip  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2015 1:10 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Sam  
**Cc:** Honker, William; Garcia, David; Brown, Jamesr  
**Subject:** FW: NPR story on Phil's presentation to GWPC emphasizes conflict with RRC

Sam, here are my answers to your questions. Thanks. 214-665-8324

### **Why is 6WQ doing research on earthquakes in Irving?**

Since introducing the engineering approaches as a tool for evaluating potential induced seismicity, we have continued to test these tools on cases that were too late for inclusion in the report. This includes Azle, Irving, and some sites in Oklahoma.

### **Who requested?**

The National Technical Workgroup requested that we develop a template for evaluating operational data. Evaluating multiple sites and cases is needed to refine the template. It is part of our ongoing effort to evaluate the usefulness of the approach and ultimately to provide solid technical support to state regulators. Oklahoma requested such support last fall. They expanded this request at the Austin meeting this week.

### **What is the goal?**

The goal is:

- 1 - To further test the engineering application used in the report. Additionally, last week, an SMU researcher met us and expressed interest in collaboration using our engineering assessments of the Azle and Irving situations.
- 2 – To determine if there is correspondence between the nearest disposal well and the recent Irving events and share the results with RRC.

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**From:** Honker, William  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2015 7:44 AM  
**To:** Garcia, David; Brown, Jamesr; Dellinger, Philip  
**Subject:** Fwd: NPR story on Phil's presentation to GWPC emphasizes conflict with RRC

Please prepare a response.

Bill Honker  
Director, Water Quality Protection Division, EPA Region 6

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Coleman, Sam" <[Coleman.Sam@epa.gov](mailto:Coleman.Sam@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** February 12, 2015 at 6:22:01 AM MST  
**To:** "Honker, William" <[honker.william@epa.gov](mailto:honker.william@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** "Garcia, David" <[Garcia.David@epa.gov](mailto:Garcia.David@epa.gov)>, "Brown, Jamesr" <[brown.jamesr@epa.gov](mailto:brown.jamesr@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: NPR story on Phil's presentation to GWPC emphasizes conflict with RRC

Why is 6WQ doing research on earthquakes in Irving? Who requested? What is the goal?

Samuel Coleman, P.E.  
Deputy Regional Administrator  
Region 6  
[coleman.sam@epa.gov](mailto:coleman.sam@epa.gov)  
214.665.2100 Ofc  
214.665.3110 Direct  
214.789.2016 Cell  
Sent from my Windows Phone

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**From:** [Honker, William](#)  
**Sent:** 2/11/2015 1:25 PM  
**To:** [Coleman, Sam](#)  
**Cc:** [Garcia, David](#); [Brown, Jamesr](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: NPR story on Phil's presentation to GWPC emphasizes conflict with RRC

Sam,

I wanted to make sure you were aware of this NPR story and the context described below. There's a chance Milton Rister might give you a call about it.

Bill Honker  
Director, Water Quality Protection Division, EPA Region 6

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Brown, Jamesr" <[brown.jamesr@epa.gov](mailto:brown.jamesr@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** February 11, 2015 at 8:55:08 AM MST

**To:** "Overbay, Michael" <[overbay.michael@epa.gov](mailto:overbay.michael@epa.gov)>, "Honker, William" <[honker.william@epa.gov](mailto:honker.william@epa.gov)>, "Garcia, David" <[Garcia.David@epa.gov](mailto:Garcia.David@epa.gov)>, "Mayer, Rebecca" <[Mayer.Rebecca@epa.gov](mailto:Mayer.Rebecca@epa.gov)>, "Gray, David" <[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)>

**Subject: RE: NPR story on Phil's presentation to GWPC emphasizes conflict with RRC**



Phil talked with Leslie Savage at the conference today about the article and told her the quotes were taken out of context. Leslie didn't seem overly alarmed by the story and will talk with Lori Wrotenberry to explain. She mentioned that Lori is a big believer in data sharing.

Jim

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**From:** Overbay, Michael

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2015 9:22 AM

**To:** Honker, William; Garcia, David; Brown, Jamesr; Mayer, Rebecca; Gray, David

**Subject:** NPR story on Phil's presentation to GWPC emphasizes conflict with RRC

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/texas/2015/02/11/epa-team-looking-at-relationship-between-irving-quakes-and-disposal-well/>

Phil did a presentation to the Ground Water Protection Council meeting in Austin yesterday about the EPA National Technical Workgroup paper on practical approaches for regulators for evaluating and managing risks of induced seismicity from Class II injection wells. This presentation was vetted by ODWGW and dry runs here included our attorney.

One slide in the presentation was about our attempts to apply the engineering evaluation tools to the injection wells operating closest to the area of the Irving earthquakes. He said in his presentation that we do not have any data more recent than last September for these wells, and the RRC has not yet responded to our request for the current data.

NPR has highlighted that as a main thrust of their story. They have asked the RRC to respond, and the RRC quoted their seismologist, Dr. Craig Pearson, as saying they see no need to request any additional data from the operators than that which is required by their regulations. It is my understanding that that means a monthly injection volume total, reported annually. It may also include some pressure data.

Sam should probably be notified that Milton Reister may call him to complain about being thrown under the bus. Phil called Pearson over a month ago and requested the data, but Pearson said he would have to get Rister's approval. Phil asked him to call him back in a few days regardless of what the answer was, and Pearson agreed but has not done so.

Michael Overbay, P.G.  
Regional Ground Water Center Coordinator  
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6  
(214)665-6482